

Wycombe Friends of the Earth
Minutes of Zoom on Wednesday 1st April 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: 8

Apologies: 1

1. Finance - in credit.

2. Ecotips

Food Waste

Clothes washing tips.

As the weather gets better, remember to dry your washing outside on a line rather than inside which will take heat and energy, especially if you use a tumble dryer - they use a lot of energy and, therefore, money.

Do you really need to wash your clothes so often? Try to cut down on your washing - better for your clothes and better for the environment.

Think about your detergent. Ecover is available in supermarkets and soap nuts are available in Holland and Barrett. Both are better environmental choices than harsh detergents. Soap nuts are an economical alternative at £5 for 100 washes compared to powder. Refill outlets are listed on the WFoE website.

No Mow May coming up

Our best mowing tip for this time of year is - Do nothing.

Not mowing in April and May will bring a boost of much-needed nectar to pollinators across gardens, parklands and verges; not to mention benefits to wildlife and biodiversity in general. For more info see <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>

3. AGM - will be in person on 5th June at The Friends Meeting House, when the future of the group will be discussed.

4. Consultations

None obviously relevant at present.

5. Campaigns

a. Fossil Fuel 2030 campaign - no update at present.

b. Election campaign.

- FOE are putting together a database for the election for each constituency to focus on environmental issues.
- National FOE and other environmental groups have reduced in popularity in line with the cost of living crisis, according to a YouGov poll. There seems to be more support for environmental matters in more affluent areas. The environment has slipped down people's agenda in favour of problems around the world and the cost of living crisis.

- FOE are doing podcasts and have a 10 point plan for the election.
- A member will call FOE to discuss this and other campaigns.
- We should on the election in Wycombe as Warmer Homes will still be relevant next year.
- We could liaise with other groups in the area.
- We can't support any particular candidate as FOE is non-political but we could try and make sure that environmental questions are raised at hustings.
- Zero Hour has produced a letter to send to candidates requesting support for climate matters. A member will send the information to WFOE Google Group.
- A member will contact other local groups for us to join in any election actions potentially.
- A member will add any other groups she knows of and there are some on the WFOE website.
- A member put the organisations on our website and will then ask such organisations if they are happy with the way we have summarised them on our website.

c. Warmer Homes (FoE)

Octopus have supported new homes with green energy installations (eg solar panels and heat pumps) and have pledged not to charge these homeowners for energy for the first 5 years.

6. **Petitions** - none relevant currently.

7. **Social media**

- 42 posts 26 comments 108 reactions

8. **Events**

a. 12th May - Pann Mill

b. Screening of 'Six Inches of Soil'- film in Henley - A member has seen this and found it uplifting. It is about the journeys of people who have started small farms and aim to farm in an environmentally friendly way.

(Rosedales Farm, on the other side of Aylesbury, farms in eco-friendly ways and welcomes tours.)

c. Sunday 2 June - Chinnor and Thame FOE Green Fayre.

d. Saturday 27th April, 11am-3pm. Grow Together community allotment open day. Entrance to the allotment is at the junction of Sierra Road and Genoa Way. HP11 1GX.

9. **Stalls**

a. Pann Mill 12th May - focus? Attraction? Volunteers?

A member will look at display board and check out FOE 10 point plan for election.

- b. Downley Festival 15th June - not enough help to be able to do it?
- c. Pann Mill 8th September? We decided to wait - see note.
- d. Festival of Wycombe 8th September? We decided to wait - see note.

Note: Pann Mill and Festival of Wycombe are both on 8th September. Festival of Wycombe is promoting Wycombe, sustainability and environment. We will wait until nearer the time to see which one to go for, or whether they will be linked in some way.

10. Gomms Valley Development

- Planning decision 23rd April. Taylor Wimpey has appealed against Bucks Council decision to refuse permission. Many of their appeals are against environmental stipulations but not all.
- In all developments, one of the biggest problems is that a natural environment is destroyed very quickly but takes a long time to rebuild. They will justify destroying 400 year old trees with all its ecosystems by putting in saplings that will take many years to reach the environmental benefit of those destroyed.

11. AOB

a. Future of WFoE.

Are we achieving what we need to? We will put this on the next agenda for the next meeting to give people time to think about it.

- b. A member made the point that members should help political organisations, as individuals rather than on behalf of WFoE.
- c. A member will ask FOE whether political organisations should post on the WFoE Facebook page as FOE is non-political.

12. Next meeting will be a zoom meeting on Wednesday 1st May.